

The minutes of the regular meeting of Dawson Twp Council held on Wednesday March 2nd 2016 at 7 pm in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT** Mayor L Armstrong. Councillors: D Hartnell, B Jodoin, B Langner & V Murray. Clerk-Treasurer: P W Giles. Rd Supt/Fire Chief: Randy Asselin. Visitor: Stan Armstrong to observe meeting.

**MINUTES** #16-16 LANGNER & MURRAY & CARRIED that the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held February 3rd 2016, be approved as printed.

**ACCOUNTS** #16-17 HARTNELL & JODOIN & CARRIED that the accounts in the amount of \$82,634.21 which representing disbursements for the month of February, be approved for payment.

**GARAGE** #16-18 MURRAY & LANGNER & CARRIED that Council authorize insulation improvements to the Blue Public Works garage and that J Sinninghe be hired to complete the work for a cost of approximately \$2600.00 plus taxes. In addition a 36" door is also to be replaced.

**WRRDFD** #16-19 HARTNELL & JODOIN & CARRIED that Council receives the shared budget of \$103,300. (\$66,300 operating & \$37,000 capital) for the WRRDFD and approves our portion in the amount of \$34,433.33. In addition we are also responsible for the costs for our fire halls and apparatus.

**AUDIT** #16-20 JODOIN & LANGNER & CARRIED that the Council receives the audited Financial Statement for the year 2015, the Mayor & Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the statements.

**NAT GAS** #16-21 HARNTELL & JODOIN & **DEFEATED** Whereas there are 21 rural and remote municipalities in Northwestern Ontario and a number of First Nation communities who do not have direct access to piped natural gas, and Whereas the residents and businesses in those communities without natural gas service must pay significantly more to heat their buildings and homes than communities with natural gas service, and Whereas we believe that is a public interest and benefit in extending natural gas services to rural and remote communities: and Whereas we often hear from the residents and businesses expressing their interest in having access to natural gas and the limitations and barriers they face in not having access to natural gas causes; and

Whereas current economic tests and ratemaking mechanisms associated with new connections to the existing natural gas distributions system do not encourage utilities to expand in Northwestern Ontario, and Whereas currently natural gas expansion in Northwest Ontario requires new customers to pay. In contrast the vast majority of the existing system was paid for by the rate payers as a whole, and Whereas the Ontario Energy Board has initiated a hearing on its own motion to consider what mechanisms may be used to recover the costs of expanding natural gas service to Ontario communities that do not currently have access to natural gas, and Whereas the position of the Coalition is that the cost of expanding natural gas service to communities without is should be shared by all gas rate payers in the Province of Ontario and the OEB implement new ratemaking mechanisms including changes to current economic tests to expand natural gas distribution on such basis. Therefore, be it resolved that the Township of Dawson advises the Ontario Energy

Board that it supports the position adopted by NOMA, HOACC and CVNW that the expansion of the natural gas distribution system should be paid for by all current and future gas rate payers and the OEB implement new ratemaking mechanisms including changes to current economic test to expand natural gas distribution on such basis.

**BUS #16-22 MURRAY & LANGNER & CARRIED** Whereas the communities of Northwestern Ontario have seen bus service to and from their communities reduced as well as eliminated over time, and Whereas the study The Future of Inter-Community Bus Service in Northwestern Ontario produced by Common Voice Northwest and endorsed by the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce points out that the Ontario Government already provides ground transportation subsidies to Ontario residents residing in the North Eastern Ontario and in the Greater Toronto Area, and Whereas the study also identifies that the Ontario Government, through a variety of Ministries pays for individuals to be transported between communities for medical and social income support reasons, and Whereas the study recommends that the Government of Ontario provide an annual subsidy to ensure that each community in the Northwest has access to regularly scheduled 7 day a week inter-community bus service. Therefore, be it resolved that the Township of Dawson endorse the findings and recommendations of the Common Voice Northwest report on The Future of Inter-Community Bus Service in Northwestern Ontario, and Further be it resolved that the Ontario Government be requested to implement the concepts contained within the report, and That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the following Hon. Steve Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, Sarah Campbell, MPP Kenora Rainy River, NOMA.

**ONE FUND #16-23 MURRAY & LANGNER & CARRIED** that the Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign, on behalf of the municipality, a High Interest Savings Account enrollment agreement (with ONE Fund).

**CHEM FREE #16-24 HARTNELL & JODOIN & CARRIED** that Council authorize a donation of \$100.00 for the Chem-Free Graduation 2016 at Rainy River High School.

**OTHER** The Rd Supt reported on roads as the crew will be pushing back snow banks, plow truck in for repairs, the crew has replaced packing on grader hydraulics and the furnace in the shop has not been working properly. J Sinninghe has provide a price for insulating ceiling of public works garage and the entrance door also needs replacement see #16-18. The Fire Chief reported recent highway accident call. The CBO monthly report was received. The Clerk-Treasurer updated Council on various items: including audited statements, WRRDFD budget, RRFDC levy request, LAS high interest account, MNR reinstating the spring bear hunt. Council considered various resolutions from other municipalities and updates from MPAC re billboard assessments and 2016 assessment notices.

**ADJOURN #16-25 HARTNELL & LANGNER & CARRIED** that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk